

and it is going to continue into the future. The concerns I have about this bill, and I do support it and will support it, but I just want to express on the floor that the board I think has to recognize that one of the concerns that have been expressed over the last four years is access and open accountability. And one of the concerns in the past was bringing in people with perhaps a perspective, a broader perspective than some in the past have had and perhaps to challenge some of the assumptions that the board has followed in the past. And I think one of the concerns I had about this bill, originally, was three persons selected by the boards, local boards, and those boards are selected by the Foster Care Review Board, itself, become a self-perpetuating network of people and I think we have to understand that openness and accountability have to be involved. This board is not an advisory board. It is an agency unto itself with the power to hire and fire their executive director to direct that agency. They are not a mere advisory capacity. They are significant in their powers and have to realize that they are looked to carry that responsibility very seriously. I think overall they have done a fine job and the people involved are very dedicated, but I think we have to keep in mind also ever vigilant that the board not become isolated and an entity unto itself but one that is open to new ideas and new individuals and I think they would benefit well from that process.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, on the amendment, or, excuse me, on the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, getting back to a point that I emphasized during the committee amendments, I just...I will take Senator Landis's advice and look at the definition of the child caring agency or child placing agency. I don't have any problem at all with the intent of the bill with regard to the structure of the boards or the addition of two new members, but I just need to know who...I need to have a better idea of who is exempted now because there are a number of people who I would think would be very qualified to function in the capacity as a board member who it looks like could possibly be exempted. But I will do that on...between now and Select File and, hopefully, there won't be any problem but I would urge the body to support the bill and pass it over to E & R at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Hall. Closing summary, Senator Landis.